This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A telescopic tube locking device for multiple-section telescopic tubes, comprising:

a tube section, having an inside;

a smaller tube section, slidably disposed within the tube section, configured to selectively extend from or retract into the tube section;

a clamping assembly, attached within the smaller tube section, having a locked position and a released position, the clamping assembly including

a ramp block, fixedly attached ~~to~~ within the smaller tube section, the ramp block having a first ramp surface;

a release block, moveably disposed opposite the ramp block, having a second ramp surface opposite the first ramp surface; and

a roller, rollably disposed between the first and second ramp surfaces, configured to laterally spread the ramp block and release block to place the clamping mechanism in the locked position upon relative translation of the release block in a first direction; and

a release mechanism, configured to release the clamping assembly when (i) the release block is pushed in a direction opposite to the first direction, and (ii) the smaller tube section is pulled in a direction to extend it from the tube section.

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Original) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the roller is selected from the group consisting of substantially cylindrical rollers, substantially spherical rollers, rollers having an eccentric cylindrical cross-section, cylindrical rollers with gear-type teeth, eccentric cylindrical rollers with gear-type teeth, rocker plates, and a hinge plate pivotally interconnecting the ramp block and release block.

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Previously Presented) A telescopic tube locking device for multiple-section telescopic tubes including a larger tube section having an inside, and a smaller tube section slidably disposed within the larger tube section and configured to selectively extend from or retract thereinto, the locking device comprising:

a ramp block, fixedly attached within the smaller tube section, the ramp block having a first ramp surface;

a release block, moveably disposed against the inside of the larger tube section opposite the ramp block, the release block having a second ramp surface; and

a roller, disposed between the first and second ramp surfaces, the ramp block and release block being configured such that relative longitudinal translation thereof moves the roller so as to either (i) press the release block in a locking direction laterally away from the ramp block and against the inside of the larger tube section to lock the smaller tube section therein to resist retraction of the smaller tube section into the larger tube section, or (ii) allow the release block to move in a release direction laterally toward the ramp block, so as to reduce pressure on the release block and allow sliding of the smaller tube section within the larger tube section, the release block being configured to move in

the release direction when the smaller tube section is pulled to extend it from the larger tube section.

12. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 11, further comprising a push rod, slidably disposed within the smaller tube section, configured to contact the release block to push it in the release direction.

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Currently Amended) A locking device for multiple-section telescoping tubes including a smaller tube that is telescopically retractable into or extensible from within a larger tube, comprising:

a pair of opposing blocks, disposed within the telescoping tubes, one block of the pair being fixedly attached ~~to~~ within the smaller tube, the other block of the pair being configured to move laterally with respect to the aforementioned block when the blocks are moved longitudinally with respect to each other, so as to (i) cause one block to bear against an inner side of the larger tube to resist retraction of the smaller tube, and (ii) allow the blocks to move away from the inner side of the larger tube to allow free sliding extension of the smaller tube; and

means for selectively longitudinally moving one of the blocks with respect to the other, so as to selectively allow free sliding retraction of the smaller tube.

20. (Original) A locking device in accordance with claim 19, wherein the means for selectively longitudinally moving one of the blocks comprises a push rod, slidably disposed within the smaller tube, configured to contact one of the blocks to cause the blocks to move away from the inner side of the larger tube.

21. (New) A telescopic tube locking device for multiple-section telescopic tubes, comprising:

a tube section, having an inside;

a smaller tube section, slidably disposed within the tube section, configured to selectively extend from or retract into the tube section;

a clamping assembly, attached within the smaller tube section, having a locked position and a released position, the clamping assembly including

a ramp block, fixedly attached to and enclosed within the smaller tube section, the ramp block having a first ramp surface;

a release block, moveably disposed opposite the ramp block, having a second ramp surface opposite the first ramp surface; and

a roller, rollably disposed between the first and second ramp surfaces, configured to laterally spread the ramp block and release block to place the clamping mechanism in the locked position upon relative translation of the release block in a first direction; and

a release mechanism, configured to release the clamping assembly when (i) the release block is pushed in a direction opposite to the first direction, and (ii) the smaller tube section is pulled in a direction to extend it from the tube section.

22. (New) A telescopic tube locking device for multiple-section telescopic tubes including a larger tube section having an inside, and a smaller tube section slidably disposed

within the larger tube section and configured to selectively extend from or retract thereinto, the locking device comprising:

a ramp block, fixedly attached to and enclosed within the smaller tube section, the ramp block having a first ramp surface;

a release block, moveably disposed against the inside of the larger tube section opposite the ramp block, the release block having a second ramp surface; and

a roller, disposed between the first and second ramp surfaces, the ramp block and release block being configured such that relative longitudinal translation thereof moves the roller so as to either (i) press the release block in a locking direction laterally away from the ramp block and against the inside of the larger tube section to lock the smaller tube section therein to resist retraction of the smaller tube section into the larger tube section, or (ii) allow the release block to move in a release direction laterally toward the ramp block, so as to reduce pressure on the release block and allow sliding of the smaller tube section within the larger tube section, the release block being configured to move in the release direction when the smaller tube section is pulled to extend it from the larger tube section.

23. (New) A locking device for multiple-section telescoping tubes including a smaller tube that is telescopically retractable into or extensible from within a larger tube, comprising:

a pair of opposing blocks, disposed within the telescoping tubes, a first block of the pair of opposing blocks being attached to and enclosed within the smaller tube, a second block of the pair of opposing blocks being configured to move laterally with respect to the first block when the blocks are moved longitudinally with respect to each other, so as to (i) cause one block to bear against an inner side of the larger tube to resist retraction of the smaller tube, and (ii) allow the blocks to move away from the inner side of the larger tube to allow free sliding extension of the smaller tube; and

means for selectively longitudinally moving one of the blocks with respect to the other, so as to selectively allow sliding retraction of the smaller tube.